

## REPORT ON SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2011

Prepared by Rick Freeman

Note: (1). If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or say "Unsubscribe."

(2). These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site and at the Town Office and other places following Board approval at the next meeting.

(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at my Town Meeting website:

[www.singingbridge.net](http://www.singingbridge.net)

THE MEETING: There were two members of the public present.

The minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2011 were approved with a minor wording change.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

1. There was an extended discussion of the status of the Aleada Pinkham house in Five Islands. The upshot is that Geoff Birdsall has written the attorney representing family members requesting legal documentation of the ownership status of the house and names and addresses of those with a legal interest in the house. Mary is requesting that Bill van Tuinen inspect the house and correct the assessment for tax purposes.
2. Bill Plummer brought up the issue of people carrying fuel across the Town Wharf. Apparently some of the fishermen load 75 gallon drums in the back of their trucks and carry diesel fuel down to the wharf to fuel their boats. There is nothing in the Town ordinances against this. One of Bill's concerns is liability if there is a spill, e.g., for cleanup costs, killed lobsters at the float, etc. Mary has been directed to see whether the Town's insurance policy covers this and if not, what it would cost to add this coverage. There was the suggestion that if the cost is substantial, the user fee could be raised to cover it.
3. During the Public Comment Period, I asked if there were any plans to conduct a revaluation of town properties in the near future. There are not. It was pointed out that the State now has the Town's overall valuation at 89% of their estimate of market value. The State requires revaluation if the Town's valuation falls below 70% of the State's estimate. It was also pointed out that recent sales of properties in the Town have been at prices that are comparable to the Town's valuations.

### TAX ABATEMENT REQUESTS:

Giray, Cem, and Yonca questioned the assessed value of their lot in Bowman's Landing (03R-007-14). After reviewing the assessments of similar lots in Bowman's Landing and finding similar assessed values, the Selectmen denied the requested abatement.

Howard Smart had said that he is being taxed for a mobile home on his lot (14U-054) but there is no mobile home on this lot. The error will be corrected.

Back in November Deborah Simard had requested a refund of the taxes she paid on her lot in Rotunda Hill (05R-023-001). She would like her money back for last year's taxes. Mary explained that the deadline for abatement is 185 days after taxes are committed (May 13, 2010 for 09-10 taxes) and that since she was not an

owner of record as of April 1, 2009, (she purchased June 1, 2009) she could not have requested an abatement on the tax assessed on April 1. Rotunda Hill Associates would have had to request an abatement. Mary further explained that she is welcome to write to the Selectmen but there is really nothing the Town can do about this as she was not the owner of record at time of assessment, regardless of who paid the taxes. Ms Simard has raised this issue again. Geoff will inform her in writing that there is nothing that the Town can do.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Mary reported on correspondence received. The most interesting items were:

- A notice from the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine regarding Federal and State Tax Workshops for landowners in March. This has been posted.
- The Department of Environmental Protection has forwarded Natural Resource Protection Act permits for Howard Heald's (04R-024) dock, ramp and float and for Don Banfield's (10U-011-2) pile-supported pier.
- A representative of the ME Department of Transportation will be in Town on Friday, March 11, to take a look at a few road issues. Dale has been notified.
- Central Maine Power has notified the Town that they will be installing new smart meters for all of their customers soon
- ME Department of Conservation has notified the Town that we will be receiving \$5279. in State Park Fee Sharing.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Regarding the Haddock-Montgomery case, there was a Pretrial/Status hearing on Friday, March 4. No information has been received from the Town Attorney

Regarding the radio communications problems, two representatives from the County will attend the Selectmen's meeting on April 12 to discuss the matter.

#### OTHER ITEMS:

Mary asked whether anything should be done about the drainage for the walk from the parking area to the entrance to the Office. Water had collected there last week. The general opinion was that nothing needed to be done.

The Workers Compensation audit was completed on Thursday, March 3. No problems were noted.

Roland Moreau of the ME Property Tax Division was in Town on Wednesday, March 2 to review open space, tree growth, etc. No problems were noted.

Mary noted that since the Deputy Town Clerk was going to be away for a week and a half later this month, the Town Office would not be open on March 24, 29, and 31.

The Selectmen then went into executive session to discuss personnel reviews and one concealed weapon permit application.

The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 22 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman